

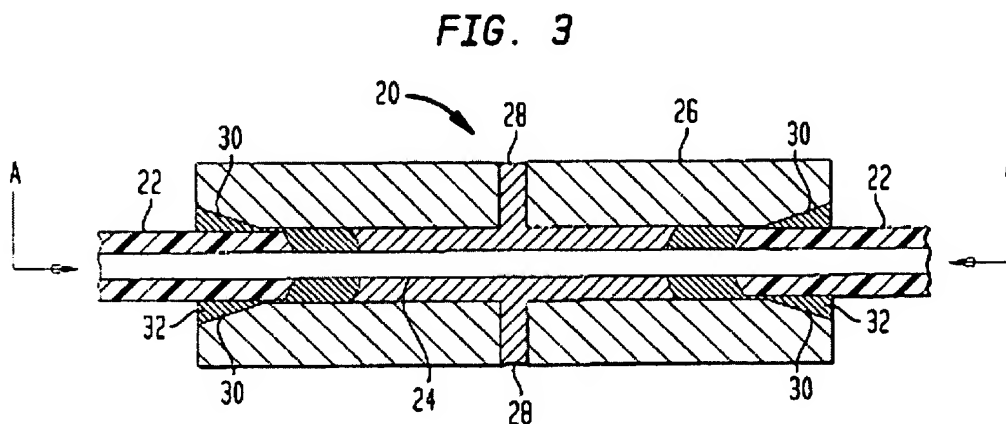
## REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thoughtful examination, allowance of claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 17-36, and indication of allowability of claims 20-22 and 34-36.

Claims 19 and 23-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Filas et al. ("Filas"). Claims 19, 32, and 35-36 were objected to for informalities.

Claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 17-49 are now in the application. Claims 15, 19, 25, 32, 35 and 36 have been amended. Claims 37-49 have been added.

Independent claims 19, 25 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Filas. In view of the amendments to these claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The noted independent claims as amended recite that the epoxy/bonding agent encloses the entire second region, and extends partially into the first and third regions. In contrast, in Filas the applied epoxy 30 only overlaps the ends of the exposed fiber 24 (which the Office Action equates with the claimed second region), but does not encompass the entire exposed fiber 24. This can best be seen in Fig. 3 of Filas:



Filas thus does not show an epoxy/bonding agent encompassing the entire second region as recited in claims 19, 25 and 33.

The use of a bonding agent/epoxy over the entire second region is not an obvious modification over Filas. In Filas, the solder 28 (which encompasses most of the second region of core 24) acts as the sealant over the fiber 24, whereas the epoxy 32 only acts as strain relief. There is no teaching or suggestion that the solder should be replaced with epoxy to provide a sealant function. Indeed, the fact that Filas used two different materials to cover the fiber teaches away from using just one of those materials.

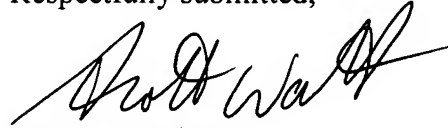
Accordingly, claims 19, 25 and 33 as amended, and remaining claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct over the applied prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of all claims and allowance of the same is therefore requested.

Claims 19, 32 35 and 36 were objected to for informalities. The amendments to claim 19 noted above render the objection thereof moot. Claims 32, 35 and 36 have been amended as proposed by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection of these claims is therefore requested.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee(s) or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Case No. 12492.0276).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Watkins", written in a cursive style.

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